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Photocatalysis — Continuous flow test methods

Part 1: Determination of the degradation of nitric oxide (NO) in the air by photocatalytic materials

National foreword

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English Version

**Photocatalysis - Continuous flow test methods - Part 1:
Determination of the degradation of nitric oxide (NO) in
the air by photocatalytic materials**

Photocatalyse - Méthodes d'essai en flux continu -
Partie 1 : Détermination de la dégradation du
monoxyde d'azote (NO) dans l'air par des matériaux
photocatalytiques

Photokatalyse - Prüfverfahren mit kontinuierlichem
Durchfluss - Teil 1: Bestimmung des Abbaus von
Stickstoffmonoxid (NO) aus der Luft durch
photokatalytische Werkstoffe

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16980-1:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 386 “Photocatalysis”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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This document is part of the CEN/TS 16980 series that consists of the following parts:

- Part 1: *Determination of the degradation of nitric oxide (NO) in the air by photocatalytic materials*
- Part 2: [To be determined].

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1 Scope

This standard describes a method for assessing the performance of photocatalytic inorganic materials contained in cement mortars and/or limes or ceramic-based matrices, paints or materials deposited as thin films or coatings on a variety of substrates for the photocatalytic abatement of nitric oxide in the gas phase. This method is not suitable for the assessment of samples to be applied with flow perpendicular to the surface or flow permeating the surface itself as polymeric and paper filters, honeycomb structures and suchlike.

The performance for the photocatalytic sample under test is evaluated by measuring the degradation rate of nitric oxide (NO) using the method described herein. The photocatalytic abatement rate is calculated from the observed rate by eliminating the effects of mass transfer. The intrinsic photocatalytic abatement rate is an intrinsic property of the material tested and makes it possible to distinguish the photocatalytic activities of various products with an absolute scale defined with physical and engineering meaning.

For the measurements and calculations described in this standard the concentration of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) is defined as the stoichiometric sum of nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

Safety statement

Persons using this document should be familiar with the normal laboratory practice, if applicable. This document cannot address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any regulatory conditions.

Environmental statement

It is understood that some of the material permitted in this standard may have negative environmental impact. As technological advantages lead to better alternatives for these materials, they will be eliminated from this standard to the extent possible.

At the end of the test, the user of the standard will take care to carry out an appropriate disposal of the wastes, according to local regulation.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CEN/TS 16599:2014, *Photocatalysis - Irradiation conditions for testing photocatalytic properties of semiconducting materials and the measurement of these conditions*

EN ISO 9169, *Air quality - Definition and determination of performance characteristics of an automatic measuring system (ISO 9169)*

ISO 7996, *Ambient air — Determination of the mass concentration of nitrogen oxides — Chemiluminescence method*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms, definitions and abbreviations apply.

3.1.1

concentration of nitrogen oxides

NO_x

stoichiometric sum of nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)

Note 1 to entry: For grade 999 nitrogen or air: the purity of the gas should be equal at least to 99,9 %.

3.1.2

photocatalyst

Catalyst able to produce, upon absorption of light, chemical transformations of the reaction partners

Note 1 to entry: The excited state of the photocatalyst repeatedly interacts with the reaction partners forming reaction intermediates and regenerates itself after each cycle of such interactions.

3.1.3

photocatalytic materials

materials in which or on which the photocatalyst is added by coating, impregnation, mixing, etc

3.2 Abbreviations

CSTR	Continuous Stirred-Tank Reactor
C^{IN}	concentration at reactor inlet
$C^{\text{OUT,DARK}}$	concentration of NO and NO ₂ at reactor outlet under stable conditions in the dark (no illumination)
$C^{\text{OUT,light}}$	concentration at reactor outlet under stable conditions with illumination (lamp on)
$C_{\text{NO}}^{\text{IN}}$	concentration of NO at reactor inlet
$C_{\text{NO}_2}^{\text{IN}}$	concentration of NO ₂ at reactor inlet
$C_{\text{NO}}^{\text{OUT,DARK}}$	concentration of NO at reactor outlet under stable conditions in the dark (no illumination) without sample
$C_{\text{NO}_2}^{\text{OUT,DARK}}$	concentration of NO ₂ at reactor outlet under stable conditions in the dark (no illumination) without sample
$C_{\text{NO,S}}^{\text{OUT,DARK}}$	concentration of NO at reactor outlet under stable conditions in the dark (no illumination) in presence of sample
$C_{\text{NO}_2,S}^{\text{OUT,DARK}}$	concentration of NO ₂ at reactor outlet under stable conditions in the dark (no illumination) in presence of sample
$C_{\text{NO}}^{\text{OUT,LIGHT}}$	concentration of NO at reactor outlet under stable conditions with illumination (lamp on) without sample
$C_{\text{NO},0}^{\text{OUT,LIGHT}}$	concentration of NO at reactor outlet under illumination of sample measured at fan speed at nominal voltage V_0

$C_{\text{NO}_2,0}^{\text{OUT,LIGHT}}$	concentration NO_2 at reactor outlet under illumination of sample measured at fan speed nominal voltage V_0
F	Flow
$F_{v,i}$	fan flow at i^{th} potential
I	irradiance
LED	light emitting diodes
MM	molecular mass
P	pressure in atmosphere
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
R	ideal gas constant
RH	gas relative humidity at 25 °C inside the reactor
$\eta_{\text{NO}}^{\text{dark}}$	conversion of NO in the dark
$\eta_{\text{NO}_2}^{\text{dark}}$	conversion to NO_2 in the dark
$\eta_{\text{NO,lamp}}^{\text{PHOTO}}$	conversion of NO under illumination without sample
$\eta_{\text{NO},i}^{\text{total}}$	conversion of NO measured with fan speed at i^{th} potential
$\eta_{\text{NO}_2,i}^{\text{total}}$	conversion to NO_2 measured with fan speed at i^{th} potential
$r_{\text{NO},i}^{\text{photo}}$	NO abatement rate at each fan speed ($i = 0..n$)
$r_{\text{NO}_2,i}^{\text{photo}}$	NO_2 photocatalytic production rate at each fan speed ($i = 0..n$)
$r_{\text{NO}_x,i}^{\text{photo}}$	NO_x abatement rate correspond to NO abatement rate minus NO_2 photocatalytic production rate
$r_{\text{NO}}^{\text{photoCAT}}$	NO photocatalytic degradation rate intrinsic to the surface of the material, after removing the mass transfer limitations
$r_{\text{NO}_x}^{\text{photoCAT}}$	NO_x photocatalytic degradation rate intrinsic to the surface of the material, after removing the mass transfer limitations
UV-A	ultraviolet with wavelength (λ) situated between 315 nm and 400 nm (IUPAC)
V_0	fan nominal operating potential (in Volt)
V_{min}	fan minimum operating potential (in Volt) set by the manufacturer
S	Sample
T	temperature in Kelvin
t_{stab}	time to reach the stability of NO concentration
UV	UltraViolet
Vr	Reactor net volume

4 Principle

The method consists in measuring the photocatalytic abatement of nitric oxide (NO) by photocatalytic materials as specified in paragraph 1 using a Continuous Stirred-Tank Reactor (CSTR) with flow tangential to the sample. Information on the theory is reported in the specialized literature (Minero et al. 2013). The residual NO and NO_x concentration at the CSTR outlet is measured by a chemiluminescence analyser (ISO 7996).

The photocatalytic activity test is carried out using chromatographic grade air, also obtained by mixing pure gases, to which NO is added in such an amount as to simulate a high degree of air pollution. The NO concentration is set to $(0,50 \pm 0,05)$ ppmv.

5 Interferences

Any measurement interferences are reported in the technical specifications of the chemiluminescence analyser. As what is measured are all species that can be converted by reduction to NO, NO₂ concentration is here defined as $[NO_2] = [NO_x] - [NO]$. For interferences on chemiluminescence detection, see Winer et al. (1974).

6 Apparatus

The test apparatus shall consist of the following main components.

6.1 Gas mixture preparation system.

The system used for preparing the reaction mixture is shown in Figure 1.

The mass flow controllers, calibrated and traceable, shall ensure a maximum flow consistent with that needed for a correct test execution. To ensure the necessary accuracy, the flow shall not exceed 90 % of the rated full scale.

As an example, to obtain the gas mixture only gases of chromatographic grade or higher purity shall be used. Instead of dry air cylinders, two separate cylinders of pure N₂ and O₂ can be used at the inlet of mass-flow controllers, adjusted so as to produce a mixture consisting of 20,8 % of O₂ and 79,2 % of N₂. The NO concentration to flow #1 is set to $(0,50 \pm 0,05)$ ppmv.